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S. RES. 182

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should allocate significantly more resources to combat global poverty.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should allocate significantly more resources to combat global poverty.

Whereas the World Bank estimates that 1,200,000,000 people in the world live on less than \$1 a day, and of these, more than 550,000,000 are in South Asia, which is 40 percent of the South Asian population, and more than 290,000,000 are in sub-Saharan Africa, which is approximately 50 percent of the sub-Saharan population;

Whereas 3,000,000,000 people, about half the world's population, live on approximately \$2 a day;

Whereas 1,200,000,000 people lack access to safe drinking water;

Whereas 2,900,000,000 people have inadequate access to sanitation;

Whereas at least 1,000,000,000 people in developing nations are unemployed or underemployed;

Whereas according to a Congressional Budget Office report entitled “The Role of Foreign Aid in Development”, United States spending on foreign assistance has fluctuated from year-to-year but has been on a downward path since the 1960’s;

Whereas in 1962, more than 3 percent of the Federal budget was spent on foreign assistance;

Whereas in 2001, foreign assistance amounts to 0.79 percent of the Federal budget, less than half of what it was 15 years ago, and less than a third of what it was 40 years ago;

Whereas United States foreign economic and development assistance represents less than 0.60 percent of the Federal budget;

Whereas United States foreign assistance amounts to only slightly more than 0.10 percent of Gross Domestic Product, or approximately \$30 per American citizen per year;

Whereas according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United States in recent years has ranked next to last among 21 industrialized donor countries in per capita foreign assistance spending; and

Whereas reducing poverty, promoting equitable economic growth, and developing democratic institutions advances United States national security interests, and the failure to address these issues, and the resulting social, economic, and political instability and violence, places

United States national security interests and the welfare and safety of United States citizens at risk: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) widespread poverty in developing nations
3 contributes to social, economic, and political insta-
4 bility and violence which can lead to failed states
5 and the conditions in which terrorist recruitment
6 and terrorist organizations flourish;

7 (2) United States bilateral assistance programs
8 and contributions to multilateral assistance pro-
9 grams must be robust enough to effectively address
10 development needs;

11 (3) the United States, the world's wealthiest,
12 most powerful Nation, in order to promote its hu-
13 manitarian, economic, and security interests around
14 the world, should increase foreign assistance spend-
15 ing by at least 25 percent per year for the next 5
16 years, and with the goal of reaching an amount
17 equal to or exceeding 3 percent of the Federal budg-
18 et by 2010; and

19 (4) the Administrator of the United States
20 Agency for International Development should—

21 (A) conduct a top-to-bottom evaluation of
22 current foreign assistance efforts to evaluate ef-
23 fectiveness;

1 (B) work with private voluntary organiza-
2 tions, foundations, and corporations to identify
3 areas where increased, targeted foreign assist-
4 ance could help reduce poverty, and promote
5 equitable economic growth and the development
6 of democratic institutions; and

7 (C) not later than 6 months after the date
8 of adoption of this resolution, submit a report
9 to the appropriate committees in Congress de-
10 scribing the Administrator's findings and rec-
11 ommendations for foreign assistance funding
12 and policies to reduce poverty, and promote eq-
13 uitable economic growth and the development of
14 democratic institutions.

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